Appln. No. 10/084,195

Amdt. Dated Feb. 20, 2004

Reply to Office Action of Dec. 23, 2003

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to define the outer wall of the orifice cup skirt, which is frusto-conical, tapers outwardly in the upstream direction from the base wall of the orifice cup to a free end of the skirt, as clearly disclosed in the present application. In distinct contrast, U.S. Patent 4,941,595, applied as an auxiliary reference in rejecting originally filed claim 1, discloses an orifice cup whose skirt appears to have two outer diameters connected by an outward taper, except that the outer wall with the skirt does not taper outwardly in the upstream direction from the base of the orifice cup to a free end of the skirt thereof, as for the purpose and in the manner of the invention. And, none of the remaining references of record discloses or fairly teaches such a tapered outer wall of an orifice cup in keeping with the invention.

Allowable claim 2 has been rewritten as independent claim 7, allowable claim 3 has been rewritten as independent claim 8, claim 4 now depends from claim 7, and claims 5, 6 each depend from claim 8. Since allowable claims have been made self-

Appln. No. 10/084,195 Amdt. Dated Feb. 20, 2004 Reply to Office Action of Dec. 23, 2003

contained with claims depending therefrom, and since claim 1 has been amended to clearly distinguish over the prior art in a patentable manner, it is respectfully requested that claims 1 and 4 to 8 be allowed so that the entire case may be passed to early issuance.

Respectfully submitted,

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